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God's Word, Inspired and Inspiring

Transcript of the presentation given by Deacon Rodney Burge and discussed at the church-based home group on Tuesday 11th June 2024.

You may, quite understandably, be thinking to yourselves, "What on earth is Rodney up to bringing three boxed jigsaw puzzles to a home group meeting? Well OK but just hold on and all will be revealed! Also on the table is a bible and today I would like to direct our thoughts to two or three verses, one almost at the beginning and others right at the very end.



Rodney Burge

Let's start at the beginning, "A very good place to start" as Maria sang in "The Sound of Music".

In Deuteronomy Chapter 4 Moses is commanding obedience from the entire people of Israel, to take notice of God's instructions to His people prior to them entering the promised land.

In verse 2 we read:- *"² You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you."*

God's statutes and judgments were consciously revealed Scripture given by God and not to be changed. Human attempts to modify God's expectations are sinful and doomed to failure. The order not to change God's Word established the writing as an authoritative canon by which human conduct could be measured. In a lengthy historical process God led His people to recognize and use the writing He inspired as the authoritative, written standard or measure for their lives. Hence the divine command not to change it in any way.

Now we move to the end of the last chapter of Revelation 22 verses 18 -21. John, in his prison on the island of Patmos wrote this final warning.

¹⁸ I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, ¹⁹ and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. ²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! ²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

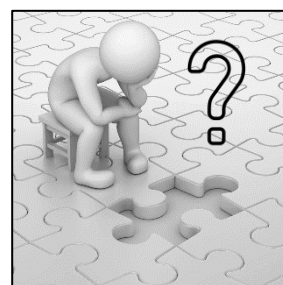
The God who breathed into each of His messengers the words of Revelation declared that no one is to add or to take away from the words of God. They are subject to God's intervention if they do. The revelation of God is not to be altered, tampered with, or distorted in anyway, for it is an extension of God Himself, even as Jesus Christ is the Word made flesh.

The book of Revelation is thus consciously presented as sacred Scripture. So, for those who promote a message that deviates from or distorts God's Word, to give an unintended supplant to God's Word, need to accept the repercussions that will inevitably come their way.

As to these jigsaw boxes in front of me, we have one with 500 pieces, one with 1,000 pieces, and one with 6,000 pieces. The first took four weeks to complete. The second four months, and the third hasn't even had the wrapping removed yet as it will not fit on the dining room table !!

You may ask what the three boxes have to do with the Bible, well for those who enjoy a puzzle think about this. In the Bible there are 39 books in the Old Testament, 27 books in the New Testament, a total of 66 books that make up the whole.

In those 66 books there are 1,189 chapters, in those chapters there are 31,102 words. IF any of those words were taken away or changed the Bible would not be complete and not the whole word of God as He intended. Just as, if any single piece of any puzzle is missing the whole thing is spoilt and of little value.



So, we must be diligent and discerning when we are handling Gods Word to ensure that what is being read or said is true to the complete, inspired and timeless Word of God.

Let us then be inspired by the lives of the apostles and reach out with the life changing message of Jesus Christ and His love for ALL mankind. Inspiring them that they will want to share in His love, that through the blood that flowed from our Saviours side on the cross find the forgiveness that is needed by everyone. There will be times when reading a portion of Scripture, that it is like looking in a mirror that is steamed up, you can see an image, but not clearly.

It's then that we need extra help and guidance from the Lord, that is when we need to dig deeper into His Word and ask our saviour to lift the scales from our eyes, that we may understand the meaning of the passage He has laid before us on that particular day. That we might increase our knowledge and deepen our understanding of just how good and great is the God we adore and serve.

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